

US Policy on Indo-Pak Relations

3702. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of U.S., in a letter to the Pakistan's Chief Executive and Military Ruler, has emphasized the need for dialogue between India and Pakistan for resolving difference;

(b) whether Government have also received similar letter from the U.S. Government;

(c) whether Government feel that there is now Pro-Pakistan tilt in the policy followed by the U.S., and

(d) whether any pressure was exercised by the U.S. on India to extend the cease-fire in J and K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) While we are aware of the position of the U.S. Government to support dialogue between India and Pakistan, it is not for Government to comment on an exchange of letters between other Heads of Government.

(b) In a recent letter, U.S. President requested the Prime Minister to demonstrate his willingness to move toward dialogue with Pakistan. He added that his administration would urge Pakistan to respond with the objective of creating an atmosphere in which dialogue could be resumed without the shadow of extremist violence.

(c) Government has noted that the new U.S. Administration is committed to closer relations with India. It is not for Government to comment on U.S.' relations with a third country.

(d) The ceasefire in J&K has been extended by Government as part of a multipronged strategy to bring peace and normalcy to the State. The question of any country putting pressure on India in this regard, therefore, does not arise.